

**J. Michael Sligh**

**Director of Sustainable Agriculture  
Rural Advancement Foundation International-USA ( RAFI-USA)  
Pittsboro, North Carolina**

**Some Key posts:**

- \* Co-founder of the Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (SSAWG), which is composed of (50) organizations in the US South**
- \* Founding member of the National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture, (NCSA)**
- \* Charter member and founding chair of the USDA/ National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)**
- \* NGO member to the UN/FAO Codex Food Labeling Commission**
- \* Member, Biotechnology Working Group**

**Michael Sligh holds degrees from the University of Georgia in cultural anthropology and archeology. From 1972 to 1982, he was diversified commercial row crop and vegetable farmer. He directed a sustainable agriculture program in the West Indies, before joining RAFI in the United States beginning in 1984. RAFI has evaluated the impacts of agricultural policy and new technology on rural communities for several decades. He has spoken widely on this work and has had a wide range of experience in agricultural policy analysis, including both domestic and international work. In 1997-98 in collaboration with colleagues in Kentucky, he convened a series of dialogues among tobacco state farm, rural development, government and health leaders to develop consensus on economic development needs in tobacco-dependent communities. In 1999 he helped lead a large group to six European countries to evaluate their marketing initiatives for a US audience.**

**Some his other service includes founding memberships in the National Family Farm Coalition and the United Nations Citizens Network on Conference on Environment and Development.**